

Section III. REMARKS

The pending claims in the application are claims 32-46, 48-53, 55-60, 62, 66-71 and 73.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 32-46, 48-53, 56-60, 66-71 and 73 were found allowable. Applicants acknowledge same.

Claim 62 has been objected to because of grammatical informalities. In response, claim 62 has been amended, as proposed by the Examiner, whereby the term “such” has been replaced with the word “the.” Claim 62 is now in proper form for allowance.

Rejection of Claims and Traversal Thereof

In the July 28, 2004 Office Action:

claims 61 and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; and

claim 55 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

These various rejections are traversed and reconsideration of the patentability of the claims is requested in light of the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

In the July 28, 2004 Office Action, claims 61 and 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement because the claims contain new matter.

The limitation of claims 61 and 72, wherein the diluent gas source is connected to the holding chamber, is based on previously submitted Figure 2, which as discussed hereinabove, was inadvertently formalized incorrectly.

Applicants have amended Figure 2 consistent with informal Figure 2 originally submitted on September 26, 2002, and claims 61 and 72 have been cancelled herein.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

In the July 28, 2004 Office Action, claim 55 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the term “fluorine-containing interhalogen compound” (singular) lacks antecedent basis.

Applicants have amended claim 55 to provide antecedent basis for the term by pluralizing the term to recite “fluorine-containing interhalogen compounds,” thereby obviating this rejection.

Claim 32 has been correspondingly amended.

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph rejection of claim 55.

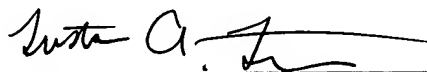
CONCLUSION

Based on the amendments made herein and the foregoing remarks, claims 32-46, 48-53, 55-60, 62, 66-71 and 73 are now in form and condition for allowance. Examiner Wong therefore is respectfully requested to reconsider and allow such claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Annotated Marked-Up Drawing

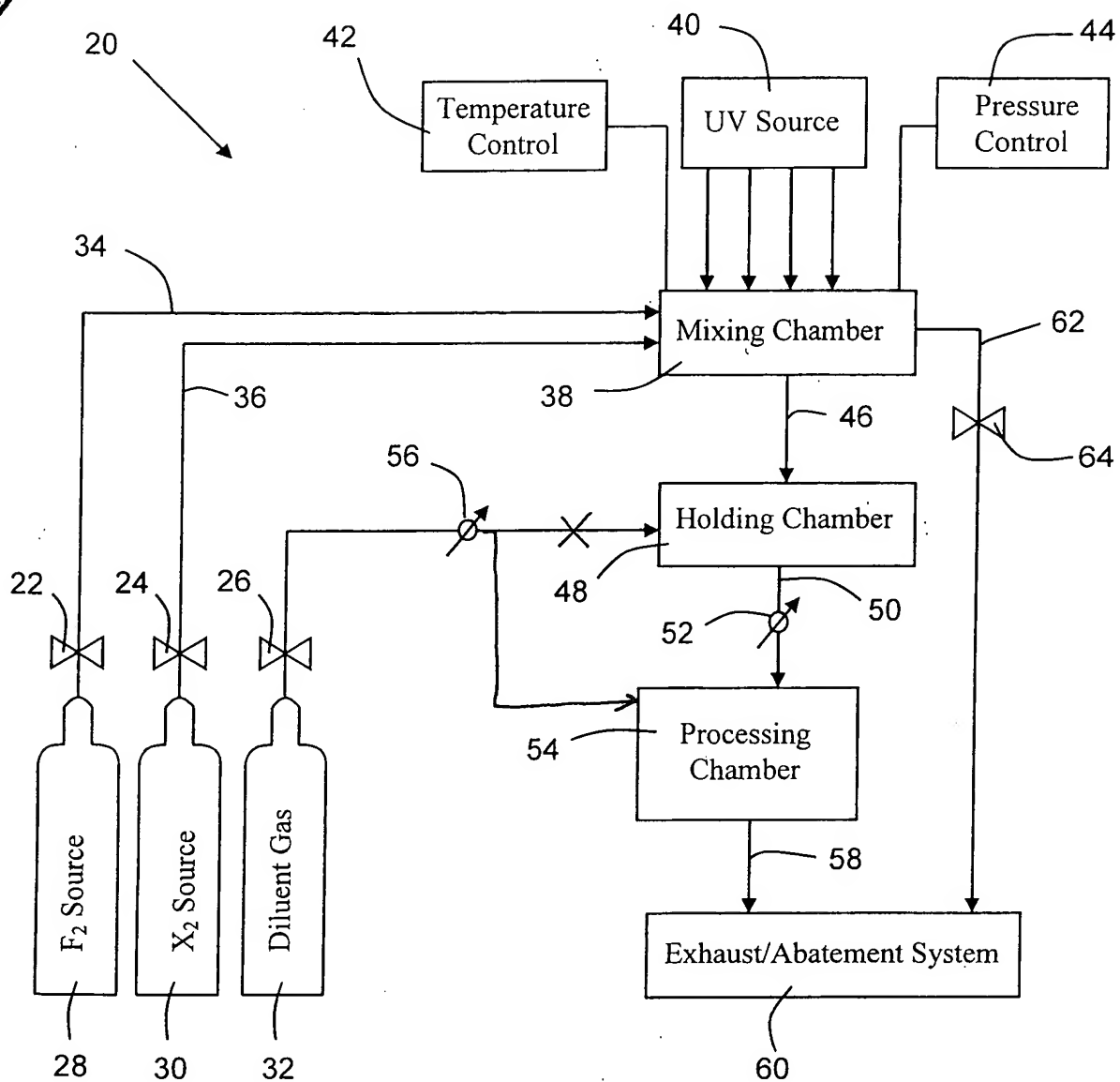


FIGURE 2